

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Lazy 8 Ranch

Proposal Number: 1439

DWR Region: Northern Region

Lead Agency: DWR

County: Box Elder

Project Manager: Steven Wilcox

PM Phone: 0

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date:

Project Location: East northeast of Park Valley, and east of Indian Creek

Project Description: Project consists of a two-way chaining over approximately 650 acres. A diverse seed mix of grasses, forbs, and shrubs will be flown on to treatment areas in between the first and second pass.

Description of Problem/Need: The topography of the sections proposed for treatment are dominated by gullies, small valleys, and small convex plateaus; some areas not suitable for chaining, such as steep slopes, and the landowners acknowledge this. Over the last 50-100 years sagebrush bunchgrass communities have been dramatically reduced in percent cover and this trend will likely worsen over time without disturbance, which while likely decrease site potential due to associated soil loss.

As a result of the trend described above, winter and transitional ranges for mule deer have been degraded. The area is also within historic sage-grouse habitat, and there are active leks within the range of seasonal sage-grouse habitat movements, therefore future sage-grouse use within the treatment areas is possible, but will depend on things like management. The primary objective is to focus on sites within the existing topography that are suitable for chaining, and likely to restore sagebrush bunchgrass communities and improve production of pockets of mountain mahogany.

Given the reduced amount of herbaceous production the landowners have also experienced reduced grazing potential. A primary objective of the landowners is to improve the capacity of the land for future grazing.

Objectives: Soil and plant surveys, as well as local expert opinion, indicates that some sites within the proposed treatment areas were historically a juniper savannah habitat-type. Other sites were/are likely a mix of black sage and Bonneville sage sites. The primary objective will be to restore these sites to the extent practicable within the constraints of the proposed treatment methods, as well as the landowner's objectives.

Likely juniper savannah sites will have old-growth juniper flagged for exclusion from treatments resulting in a mosaic of pre-settlement patches of juniper. Sagebrush bunchgrass sites will be treated to remove as much juniper as possible. Pockets of mountain mahogany within all sites will be flagged for exclusion of treatment to the degree possible, and mosaics will be sought within the project to maximize benefits to wildlife.

The landowners would also like to be able to graze the treatment areas after two years.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: Mule deer - priority III; greater sage-grouse - priority II; various shrub-steppe birds – priorities II and III

BARM W-Box, Great Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan, Mule Deer Conservation Plans

Potential Risks: Insufficient moisture following treatment and seeding could affect the success of seeded species.

Proposed Methods: Two-way chaining with ely chain. Seed flown on in between both passes. Treatment areas rested for a minimum of two years.

Shapefile Name: HPD 2010\GIS Proposals\NR\1439.shp

Seed Source: GBRC

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date: 1/14/2009

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: Photo points will likely be established provided the landowner provides permission. A general green light has been given, but the landowner has the right to refuse photo points at a later date if they wish.

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Grazing Management: Grazing will not be permitted until two years after the treatment. Landowner should be following NRCS standards and specifications following a project like this.

SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer	Shrubsteppe Birds	Neotropical Birds	Greater Sage-grouse
Raptors			

LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
Private	650
Total	650

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
WHIP	\$0.00		\$87,000.00
Private	\$0.00		\$30,000.00
Unfunded Balance	\$65,000.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$65,000.00		\$117,000.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Seed (GBRC)	purchase of seed	\$55,000.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	aerial application of seed	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
Equipment transport	transport of chain	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	WHIP chaining assistance	\$0.00	\$43,000.00
Other	contracts and materials (private)	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
Other	contract assistance and materials (WHIP)	\$0.00	\$44,000.00
	Totals	\$65,000.00	\$117,000.00

Project Map:

This is a topographic map of the Mount Baker area. The map features a grid system with red lines and numbers. A yellow boundary highlights a specific region in the center of the map. The map shows contour lines, elevation points, and a grid system. The highlighted area is roughly rectangular with irregular edges, covering a central portion of the map. The map is labeled with 'MOUNT BAKER' and various elevation numbers.

[illegible]

Map by: Steven Wilcox